



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ARREST OF DRUG KINGPIN AND NUMEROUS MANCHESTER-AREA DEFENDANTS ON STATE AND FEDERAL DRUG TRAFFICKING, MONEY LAUNDERING, AND WEAPONS CHARGES

CONCORD, NH-- New Hampshire Attorney General Kelly Ayotte; United States Attorney Tom Colantuono; N.H. State Police Colonel Frederick H. Booth; U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent-in-Charge Robin Avers; Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka; DEA Resident Agent-in-Charge Leo Ducey; George Festa, Director of the New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force (New England HIDTA); and Department of the Treasury (IRS) Criminal Investigations, Boston Field Office, Special Agent-in-Charge Joseph A. Galasso, announce that numerous members of a Manchester-based cocaine and marijuana ring have been arrested and charged with various drug trafficking, money laundering, and weapons charges. The lead defendant in the case, Christopher BOUCHARD, 33, of 1497 Union Street, Manchester, New Hampshire, was charged by complaint in the Manchester District Court with being a Drug Enterprise Leader, one count of Conspiracy to Sell Cocaine and two Conspiracies to Sell Marijuana. The District Court set bail at \$1 million, cash only, and set a date for a probable cause hearing of June 15, 2005 at 8:15 am.

The arrests were the result of a two-year investigation conducted by the New Hampshire State Police, the Manchester Police Department, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), with assistance from the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The investigation centered around cocaine and marijuana trafficking and money laundering activities of the defendants. The investigation revealed that Christopher Bouchard has purchased and sold over a million dollars worth of controlled drugs in the last three years. During the investigation, investigators purchased and seized multi-kilo quantities of cocaine and hundreds of pounds of marijuana from participants in the conspiracy. In addition, the law enforcement agencies involved in this case have executed numerous search warrants at various locations, and initiated forfeiture proceedings against various assets of the defendants.

The following individuals also face charges arising from the multi-year, multi agency investigation.

- Peter Foster, 35, of Manchester, New Hampshire, has been charged by Criminal Complaint in U.S. District Court with Possession with intent to distribute 5 kilograms of cocaine and

money laundering. This case is still pending.

- Steven Marier, 36, of Goffstown, NH, was charged by indictments in the Hillsborough County Superior Court North on January 20, 2005 for the Manufacture and Possession of a Controlled Drug with Intent to Sell. This case is still pending. Mr. Marier was also charged in the United States District Court for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm. He plead guilty to this charge on April 12, 2005 and is scheduled for sentencing on July 27, 2005.
- Gary Bilodeau, 43, formerly of 21 Channel Lane, Goffstown, New Hampshire, was charged by indictments in the Hillsborough County Superior Court North on January 20, 2005 for Possession of a Controlled Drug with Intent to Sell and Possession of a Controlled Drug. This case is still pending.
- James Hovey, 42, of Goffstown, New Hampshire, was charged by indictments in the Hillsborough County Superior Court North on January 20, 2005 for the Manufacture and Possession of a Controlled Drug with Intent to Sell. This case is still pending.
- Maria Calvillo, 41, of Manchester, New Hampshire, was charged by indictment in the Merrimack County Superior Court on February 18, 2005 for Sale of a Controlled Substance. This case is still pending.
- Barbara Guild, 47, of Epsom, New Hampshire, was charged by indictments in the Merrimack County Superior Court on February 18, 2005 for Conspiracy to Sell a Controlled Substance and Possession with Intent to Sell a Controlled Substance. This case is still pending.
- Javier Calvillo, 32, of Leominster, Massachusetts, was charged by indictment in the Rockingham County Superior Court on May 4, 2005 with Conspiracy to Sell a Controlled Substance.. This case is still pending.
- Sofia Rojas, 25, of Leominster, Massachusetts, was charged by indictment in the Rockingham County Superior Court on May 4, 2005, with Conspiracy to Sell a Controlled Substance. This case is still pending.
- Ricardo Serrano Maldonado, 33, of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, was charged by indictment in the Rockingham County Superior Court on May 4, 2005, with Conspiracy to Sell a Controlled Substance. This case is still pending.
- Edward Berthiune, 45, of 551 Silver Street, Manchester, New Hampshire was charged by complaint in Manchester District Court on June 2, 2005 with Conspiracy to Sell a Cocaine. A probable cause hearing is scheduled for June 15, 2005, at 8:15 am.
- Oscar Avina, 31, of 416 Amherst Street, Manchester, New Hampshire, was charged by complaint in Manchester District Court on June 2, 2005, with Conspiracy to Sell a Controlled Substance. A probable cause hearing is scheduled for June 15, 2005, at 8:15 am.
- Michael Manning, 57, of Phoenix, Arizona, was charged by complaint with Conspiracy to sell a controlled Drug in the United States District Court of New Hampshire. This case is still pending.

Federal authorities have also initiated various forfeiture proceedings against the following assets and properties:

- Land and buildings located at 1497 Union Street, Manchester, New Hampshire
- A condominium located at 937 Weirs Boulevard, Unit 5, Laconia, New Hampshire

- A certain condominium located at 277 Weirs Beach Boulevard, Unit 11, Laconia, New Hampshire
- Land and buildings located at 551 Silver Street, Manchester, New Hampshire
- One 2003 Cadillac Escalade, registered to Jennifer Sanborn
- One 2004 GMC Pickup Truck, registered to Christopher Bouchard
- One 2004 Chevy Silverado Pickup Truck registered to Virgilio S. Moreno Bravo
- One 1998 Regal Boat registered to Patricia Vilela, New Hampshire Registration NH2265AZ
- A tract or parcel of land with improvements thereon, described as Lot 2-170 on a Plan of Gunstock Acres, Gilford, New Hampshire, Entitled "Sections #1, #2, and #4, Excluding Lots 300 to 310, 274 to 279, 281 to 283, 229 to 232, 234 and 236 From Section #1, Drawings 2, 5, 6 And Portions of Drawings 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 15," owned by Christopher Bouchard.

During the investigation, local, state and federal authorities executed search warrants at the following locations:

- 1497 Union Street, Manchester, NH, the residence of Christopher Bouchard
- 416 Amherst Street, apartment 1, Manchester, NH, the residence of Oscar Avina
- 481 Elm Street, Manchester, NH, Discount Auto Sales
- 79 Colonel Daniels Drive, Bedford, NH, the residence of Steven Vilela
- 102 Elm Street, Manchester, NH, Theo's Restaurant
- 551 Silver Street, Manchester, NH, the residence of Edward Berthume

The prosecution is being handled by Senior Assistant Attorney General Susan G. Morrell, First Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF"), Attorney Kirsten B. Wilson, of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, and Assistant United States Attorney Rob Rabuck of the Civil Division's Asset Forfeiture Section.

The resources for this joint investigation were provided, in substantial part, by New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDEF) and New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.